

IN THE CLAIMS

The status of the claims as presently amended is as follows:

1. (*Currently Amended*) An information processing apparatus ~~connected~~ connectable to a network having thereon at least one a server capable of for processing e-mails, and at least one image forming apparatus, the information processing apparatus being capable of transmitting and receiving e-mails, and managing counter information indicating an output state of the image forming apparatus; the information processing apparatus comprising:

a creation unit adapted to create an e-mail addressed to the information processing apparatus, with time of the transmission of the e-mail contained in a body of the e-mail;

a managing device that manages the counter information; and

a receiving unit adapted to receive an e-mail created corresponding to the transmitted e-mail created by said creation unit from the server, wherein the server includes in the e-mail time of the reception of the e-mail received by the server; and

a time setting unit adapted to device that transmits an e-mail addressed to the information processing apparatus, receives the e-mail, and then set[[s]] present time based on the time of the transmission of the e-mail[[,]] and the time of the reception of the e-mail by the server, both of which are contained in the e-mail received by said receiving unit.

2. (*Currently Amended*) An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising an NTP time information acquisition device ~~that~~ unit adapted to acquire[[s]] time information using NTP, and

wherein said time setting device carries unit is adapted to carry out the setting of the present time based on the time of the transmission of the e-mail[[,]] and the time of the reception of the e-mail by the server, concurrently with the acquisition of the time information acquired by said NTP time information acquisition device unit.

3. (*Currently Amended*) An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a storage device that unit adapted to retain[[s]] time information upon shutdown, and

wherein said time setting device sets the present time based on the time information retained in said storage device upon startup of the information processing apparatus unit is adapted to correct the time retained by said storage unit based on the predetermined correction information on a time period required for execution of reboot, and sets the corrected time as the present time.

4-6. (*Canceled*)

7. (*Currently Amended*) An information processing apparatus according to claim [[4]] 2, wherein said time setting device ~~acquires information of the time from said mail time information-acquisition device~~ unit is adapted to carry out the setting of the present time based on the time of the transmission of the e-mail and the time of the reception of the e-mail by the server, without using the time information acquired by said NTP time acquisition unit when the time information has not been acquired by said NTP time information acquisition device unit.

8. (*Canceled*)

9. (*Currently Amended*) An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the information processing apparatus is connectable to an image forming apparatus comprising a printing device that carries out printing on a recording medium.

10. (*Currently Amended*) An information processing method for an information processing apparatus ~~connected~~ connectable to a network having thereon ~~at least one~~ a server ~~capable of for processing e-mails, and at least one image forming apparatus, the information processing apparatus being capable of transmitting and receiving e-mails, and managing counter-information indicating an output state of the image forming apparatus;~~ the method comprising:
 a creation step of creating an e-mail addressed to the information processing apparatus, with time of the transmission of the e-mail contained in a body of the e-mail;
 a managing step of managing counter information; and
 a receiving step of receiving an e-mail corresponding to the transmitted e-mail created in said creating step from the server, wherein the server includes in the e-mail time of the reception of the e-mail received by the server; and
 a time setting step of transmitting an e-mail addressed to the information processing apparatus, receiving the e-mail, and then setting present time based on the time of the transmission of the e-mail[[.]] and the time of the reception of the e-mail by the server, both of which are contained in the e-mail received in said receiving step.

11. (*Currently Amended*) An information processing method according to claim 10, further comprising an NTP time information acquisition step of acquiring time information using NTP, and

wherein in said time setting step, the setting of the present time is carried out based on the time of the transmission of the e-mail[,] and the time of the reception of the e-mail by the server, concurrently with the acquisition of the time information by acquired in said NTP time information acquisition step.

12. (*Currently Amended*) An information processing method according to claim 10, further comprising a storing step of retaining time information upon shutdown, and

wherein in said time setting step, ~~the present time is set based on the time information retained in said storing step upon startup of the information processing apparatus~~ the time retained in said storage step is corrected based on the predetermined correction information on a time period required for execution of a reboot, and the corrected time is set as the present time.

13-15. (*Canceled*)

16. (*Currently Amended*) An information processing method according to claim 11, wherein in said time setting step, ~~information of the time is acquired using said mail time information acquisition step~~ the setting of the present time is carried out based on the time of the transmission of the e-mail and the time of the reception of the e-mail by the server, without using the time information acquired in said NTP time information acquisition step when the time information has not been acquired in said NTP time information acquisition step.

17. (*Canceled*)

18. (*Currently Amended*) An information processing method according to claim 10, wherein the information processing apparatus is connectable to a printer, the method further comprising a printing step of carrying out printing with the printer on a recording medium.

19. (*Currently Amended*) A computer-readable medium storing a computer program for causing a computer to implement an information processing method for controlling an information

processing apparatus connected connectable to a network having thereon at least one a server capable of for processing e-mails, and at least one image forming apparatus, the information- processing apparatus being capable of transmitting and receiving e-mails, and managing- counter information indicating an output state of the image forming apparatus; the computer program comprising:

creation module for creating an e-mail addressed to the information processing apparatus, with time of the transmission of the e-mail contained in a body of the e-mail;

a managing module for managing the counter information; and

a receiving module for receiving an e-mail corresponding to the transmitted e-mail created in said creating module from the server, wherein the server includes in the e-mail time of the reception of the e-mail received by the server; and

a time setting module for transmitting an e-mail addressed to the information processing apparatus, receiving the e-mail, and then setting present time based on the time of the transmission of the e-mail[[,]] and the time of the reception of the e-mail by the server, both of which are contained in the e-mail received in said receiving module.

20. (*Previously Presented*) An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said information processing apparatus is adapted to manage counter information indicating an output state of an image forming apparatus connectable to a network.